

February 27, 1995 LB 28, 53, 64, 76, 86, 92, 96, 122
124, 137, 828

Board of Equalization, and I think that may be a concern to...or may have been a concern to a number of your constituents that were faced with this in years past. I'm not sure if Senator Witek's approach is the best approach or not but, certainly, holding off on enacting this or pursuing the eventual enactment of this bill with the emergency clause is something that I would not be in favor of because there are a number of unanswered questions that I'm not sure...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...I'm willing to support this bill. Now I understand the purpose for introducing the bill that Senator Warner has gone through, where we're trying to seek an equal evaluation of all property across this state, and I have no problems with that approach. But my concern is what political subdivisions will do with the increase in the valuation, and it's my hope that we can find an equitable solution to this problem so that we can take care of the concerns of rural senators, like Senator Schellpeper here, who want us to increase our valuations to the same level as his constituents. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB 828, LB 28, LB 53, LB 64, LB 76, LB 86, LB 92, LB 96, LB 122 and LB 124. Senator Kristensen, your light is next, followed by Senators Witek, Hall, Wesely and Warner.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Witek amendment. Obviously, the placing of a constitutional change such as this, I think, is about ten years too late. Obviously, these things should have been done before the present controversy arose, but the trouble is the present controversy has always been there but no one has ever bothered to look at it. No one has bothered to raise those issues and everybody has always looked at their own property tax statement across the state and decided whether it was more or less than they paid the year before. They've never paid attention to equalization problems. With the advent of state aid, that has now become exaggerated, and the problem with equalization is that it deals with fairness and I think what tends to get lost in this debate is that there are fewer and fewer people who are concerned about being fair, they're more